



Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

(13, August, 2012)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 13, August, 2012 at 301 West 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Jesus Lardizabal called the Board Meeting to order at 12:05 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Jesus Lardizabal, Chip Howe, Kathy Kasprisin, Norman Kieke, George Luc, and Tanya Winters. Absent Ron Lucey

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez

1. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin to approve the July 09, 2012 minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman Kieke. The motion was approved unanimously by all.

2. **OLD BUSINESS** A motion was made by Commissioner Norman Kieke, to submit the My Medicaid Matters resolution to Council, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters. The motion was approved unanimously by all.
 - Dolores will work with Commissioner Howe on finalizing the wording on the resolution and submit to members to take to their individual council members.

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

Presentation: Ayo Oppenheimer, local citizen, -A discussion proposing a new and innovative way to embrace differences and empower persons with disabilities to share their stories while doing public outreach to the Austin community.

- Introduction
 - Ayo is new to Austin and tells her story of meeting an amputee, who describes to her how the general public still views people with disabilities as different.
 - After this meeting Ayo came up with the idea of having a public forum that would give people with disabilities a chance to speak about their journey and for the public to ask questions in a safe environment.
 - Storytelling is becoming more popular, because it is a good way to educate and outreach to the public.
 - Austin should consider a month long story telling program as a standalone, to piggy back off of other events during the month of October.
 - The event would include a select few presentations from a number of people in the disability community, followed by Q&A and organizational booths giving the general public an interactive experience (experiencing blindness, deafness, etc).
 - Venues such as VSA, theaters, and the Mexican American Cultural Center could be used to host the month long event.
 - The event would be geared towards bringing disability awareness to the general public giving an opportunity for people with disabilities and their families to tell their stories.

- Many of the major disability advocacy organizations and agencies (ARCIL, DARS, DADS) have expressed interest in this month long event. Currently there is no such event being held in the Austin community.
 - Ayo would like to build on these ideas but she is very flexible on receiving input to elaborate further to bring the event to manifestation.
- **AMCPD Discussion**
- Commissioner Tanya Winters suggested partnering with VSA Texas Actual Lives program, a drama troupe of people with disabilities.
 - Commissioner George Luc and Commissioner Winters volunteered to take point on this project for the committee. AMCPD member Mitch Rappaport also volunteered to help.
 - Commissioner Luc commended Ayo on suggesting this event for the community.
 - Commissioner Winters suggested to Ayo to start with VSA Texas and talk with other event organizers from White Cane Day and Disability Mentoring Day to collaborate for October.
 - Chair Jesus Lardizabal is supportive of such an event, but needs concrete details before he can commit any committee resources.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Access & Youth Committee – Chair Tanya Winters

- Chair Tanya Winters reported that the Austin Access Awards presentation was held on August 2nd at City Council Chambers. She also reported that letters for non-winners have gone out and Pictures of winners with Mayor Lee Leffingwell would be sent via email. The winners that were not able to attend were invited to the September 17 AMCPD meeting, to receive their awards.

Awards & Employment Committee – Liaison Dolores Gonzalez for Chair Ron Lucey

- Committee Liaison Dolores Gonzalez reported that bids to host the AMCPD Employment Awards have been finalized. This year's Awards will be held at The Crowne Plaza Austin (located at 6121 N IH 35) on Monday October 29, 2012.
- Dolores also reported that funds for this year's award expenses including venue, printing and awards has been encumbered for fiscal year 12.
- Dolores announced that Commissioner Ron Lucey and Awards Committee Member Katie Navine had secured several judges for the program including Dennis Borel and Robert Alexander, area manager for DARS.

A new and improved online nomination was announced by Dolores; it can be found at:

<http://austintexas.gov/employment-disability-awards>

- The deadline for nominations to be submitted is September 28, 2012.

4. **ACTION ITEMS:** A motion was made by Commissioner Norman Kieke during the August 13, 2012 AMCPD meeting, to submit the My Medicaid Matters resolution to Council the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters. The motion was approved unanimously by all.
5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** No public hearings were held during the August 13, 2012 Meeting.
6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** No citizen communication took place at the August 13, 2012 Meeting.

7. **STAFF BRIEFINGS:** Dolores Gonzalez

- **Budget:** report: There were no expenses this month, leaving a fiscal year balance of \$6,005.00
- Dolores has been conducting a series of brief ADA Employment presentations at Public Works Safety Meetings, which are mandatory. So far she has addressed about 250 employees in the department.
- **The Visitability Meeting:** The stakeholders meeting discuss visitability standards being included in the City Code is set for Wed Aug 15 here in the Boards and Commissions Room at City Hall at 2:30pm. This meeting covers a brief history of visitability and discusses current requirements.
- On September 29th CORE Health Foundation is sponsoring an event on the accessible fishing pier. The Committee is welcome to have an informational booth at the event.

CALENDAR

Sept 28, 2012 Deadline for Employment Awards nominations.

- Sept 29, 2012 CTD Film Festival at Goodwill & CORE Fishing for All event
- Oct 5-6, 2012 CTD Film Festival South Alamo Draft house
- Oct 16, 2012 White Cane Day at Republic Square Park
- Oct 17, 2012 Disability Mentoring Day
- Oct 24, 2012 Texas Governor's Committee Awards Houston, TX
- Oct 29, 2012 Employment & Disability Awards program at Crowne Plaza Hotel
- Feb-Aug 2013 TDLR Accessibility Academy Dates check TDLR website

8. **Future Agenda Items:** The committee would like to request DRS representative to discuss embedded training and services at DARS at a future committee meeting.

9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the August 13, 2012 meeting by Commissioner Kathy Kasprisin; the motion was seconded by Commissioner George Luc. The motion was approved unanimously by all.